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since abandoned names as *Tania cucumerina* and *Distomum hepaticum*. Better figures could have been found almost anywhere than those he gives of *Tania solium* and tapeworm embryos; that of *Cæerurus cerebrealis* is clearly wrong and the cut of a liver fluke is little more than a blotch of ink. On the other hand many of the botanical illustrations are excellent, and none are really poor. Neither authority nor credit is given for any figure, though many, if not most of them, are copied from other authors.

Despite these criticisms and an evident lack of control of his field in some places, Dr. Laloy has produced an usable work. The material brought together here is scattered widely and both unknown and inaccessible save to the specialist. The order is logical, the presentation clear and the author manifests the characteristic French ability to secure and hold the attention and interest of his readers.

GEOLOGY

Relative Geological Importance of Continental, Littoral, and Marine Sedimentation. — Professor Joseph Barrell has given us¹ a critical discussion of the conditions under which continental, littoral, and marine sedimentation take place, the classification of the three types of deposits, the evidence upon which they may be discriminated, and the probable areal and vertical extent of the deposits of each class now found in the geological column. It is shown that the littoral zone is of exceedingly small extent, its deposits less likely to be preserved than the deposits of the other two zones, and that unless a given formation is undoubtedly of littoral origin it is more likely to be either marine or continental. The regions of continental sedimentation are shown to be far more extensive than generally believed, the chances for the preservation of continental deposits often very good, and that therefore a much greater proportion of ancient sediments is likely to be found of continental origin than is generally conceded. The last part of the essay deals with the origin and preservation of mud cracks, and their value as a criterion of continental rather than of littoral sedimentation. It is shown that contrary to the usual interpretation, mud cracks generally furnish one of the surest

¹ Journal of Geology, **14**, pp. 316–356, 430–457, 524–568, 1906.

indications of the continental origin of a given formation. Applying the results of his studies to specific portions of the geological column, the author concludes that certain important formations, heretofore generally referred to a marine origin, are most probably continental deposits.

Professor Barrell's paper is an important contribution to a series of studies which are resulting in a very manifest movement away from the former tendency to regard all sediments as marine unless definitely proved of some other origin, toward a fuller recognition of the importance of continental sedimentation, and a more open attitude of mind to such an alternative interpretation.

D. W. J.

Observations in South Africa.—Professor W. M. Davis presents¹ a variety of geological and geographical observations made during his visit to the Colonies of South Africa in the summer of 1905. After a brief introduction, in which the going and return journeys are sketched, the physiographic provinces of South Africa are outlined, and the problems to be considered briefly stated. The next twenty pages are mainly concerned with a study of the Cape Colony ranges considered with special regard to their resemblance to the Allegheny mountains of our own country, both groups belonging to the class of much dissected folded mountains. The famous Dwyka glacial formation of Permian age is next discussed in some detail, some twenty pages dealing with the character of the evidence upon which reference to a glacial origin is based, the topography of South Africa during Dwyka time, and the possible causes of the Dwyka glacial period. The third portion of the paper deals with the peneplain of the Veld or interior highland, and the conditions of its origin, the evidence being weighed with a desire to discriminate if possible between normal peneplanation as one alternative, and arid leveling without baseleveling as the other. Other problems of interest, such as the origin of the zig-zag gorge below the Victoria falls of the Zambesi, and the probable greater extent of South Africa in former times, are considered. Eight plates and a number of drawings serve to illustrate the paper.

D. W. J.

Geology of the Big Horn Mountains.²—The results of five seasons' field work in the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming and Montana

¹ Bulletin Geol. Society of America, **17**, pp. 377–450, 1906.

² U. S. Geological Survey, Professional Paper No. 51, 1906, 128 pp.